



Untitled by Taibi Mast-Else, 15, LaGuardia High School, New York, part of the ARTifacts exhibition of artwork by students in response to the September 11th tragedy. Image courtesy of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

2002: Year In Review

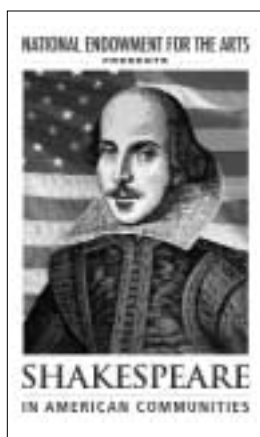
The start of fiscal year (FY) 2002 coincided with the horror and tragedy of the September 11 terrorist attacks. In October 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts offered assistance to the arts community in New York City by providing a \$30,000 extraordinary action grant to the New York State Council on the Arts for relief efforts in the wake of the September 11 disaster. The grant supported recovery activities such as equipment purchases, office repair, disaster cleaning services, and addressing the forced disruption of services. Extraordinary grants are provided by the Chairman for emergency situations where funds are needed immediately—\$30,000 is the maximum amount allowed for this type of grant.

In addition, the NEA also awarded \$15,000 to the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers for *ARTifacts: Kids Respond to a World in Crisis*, an exhibition at the Diane von Furstenberg Studio Gallery in New York City in April 2002. The exhibition and companion publication featured art and writing created by New York City area students in response to the September 11 tragedy. These student-created works highlight the important role creative expression can play in helping young people cope with life-changing events and work through grief.

The year 2002 also brought a personal tragedy to the Arts Endowment. In October 2001, Michael P. Hammond, a proponent of early arts education for children and scholar in the relationship between neuroscience and music, was nominated for Chairman of the agency. On January 22, 2002, Hammond took office but, sadly, passed away on January 29, 2002. Deputy Senior Chairman Eileen B. Mason was Acting Chairman for the remainder of the fiscal year.

One of the ideas Chairman Hammond suggested in his short term of office was a tour of Shakespeare plays throughout the country to bring the great playwright to new audiences and new generations. After his death, this modest idea mentioned only in passing blossomed into one of the largest initiatives the NEA has ever undertaken, Shakespeare in American Communities. The touring program will bring four of Shakespeare's

greatest plays, presented by six theater companies, to more than 100 communities in all 50 states. The tours will begin in the fall of 2003.



In FY 2002, the NEA saw its second significant budget increase in a row: a \$10 million increase for Challenge America, the initiative begun in FY 2001 to provide greater access to the arts to

underserved areas of the country. This brought the total amount of FY 2002 funding for this important initiative to \$17 million, and the total NEA budget to \$115,220,000. This year, Challenge America supported more than 460 projects, such as those that provide arts education for underserved youth and community arts development, in addition to providing funds to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, and supporting national initiatives such as Shakespeare in American Communities.

In addition to the \$17 million for Challenge America, the Arts Endowment awarded more than 2,200 grants totaling more than \$80 million in the areas of Grants to Organizations, Individual Fellowships, Partnership Agreements, and Leadership Initiatives in FY 2002. Of that amount, 40 percent of the grantmaking funds was provided to state arts agencies and their regional arts organizations. Complete grant lists for FY 2002, including breakdown of grants by state, can be found on the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.

These grants demonstrate the NEA's commitment to artistic excellence, access for all Americans, and arts education. Projects such as the Chicago

International Children's Film Festival, which received an NEA Creativity grant of \$60,000 in FY 2002, reflect these NEA goals. The festival, which began in 1984, is the largest and most important festival of its kind and has become the preeminent U.S. venue for the release of new children's films. It featured more than 200 films and videos from 32 countries in 2002, reaching an audience of approximately 18,000 people, including more than 14,000 children and teachers. Because of the high quality of work that is presented at the festival, live action short films awarded top festival prizes are now automatically qualified for Academy Award consideration. Many of these films shown during the festival will be available to audiences for the first time.

The festival includes many activities and educational programs for children. A 120-page study guide was available to teachers, providing an introduction to using media literacy in the classroom and topics of study for 50 films in the festival. NEA funding helped to create a new Directors in the Schools program to bring directors into classrooms following the screenings of their films, and helped to train a team of 14 media educators to conduct seminars throughout the three weeks of the festival. In addition, a Young Chicago Critics Program was held for the second year, providing an intensive workshop to teach children critical viewing skills while improving their writing skills.

It is innovative programs such as these that embody fully the mission of the NEA. While descriptions of all the grants the NEA awarded in FY 2002 could complete several books, a selection of successful projects is presented in this report. By no means is this a complete list; rather, it provides a glimpse of that special place the arts have in the heart of American society.

